

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01230 170924Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

ACDA-05 SAM-01 /065 W

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R 170746Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9754

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIA'S IMPORTANCE IN THE BALKANS ALA ZHIVKOV

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR REPORTED TO ME JUNE 16 FOLLOWING VIGNETTE FROM THE VISIT HERE OF FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE SEGARD WHEN LATTER WAS RECEIVED BY CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV.

2. ZHIVKOV GAVE THE USUAL PEP TALK ABOUT BULGARIA'S RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, AND THEN SAID: "SOME COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVES VISIT BUCHAREST AND BELGRADE AND FLY OVER BULGARIA, BUT THEY CANNOT DEAL WITH BALKAN PROBLEMS WITHOUT DEALING WITH BULGARIA WHICH IS AT THE HEART OF THE PENINSULA, NO BALKAN PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED WITHOUT US". HE SAID HE HAD TALKED ALONG THESE LINES TO DAVID ROCKEFELLER AND HAD ASKED HIM TO PASS THE WORD TO WASHINGTON.

3. ZHIVKOV ALSO REMARKED TO SEGARD THAT BULGARIA IS FRIENDLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND "NOBODY COULD GO AGAINST THE SOVIETS. IF I PROPOSED AN ANTI-SOVIET POLICY, I WOULD BE OVERTHROWN". HE DIDN'T SAY BY WHOM.
HERZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA01230
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750210-0671
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750642/aaaabmib.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIA'S IMPORTANCE IN THE BALKANS ALA ZHIVKOV
TAGS: PFOR, BU, XH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006